

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 /067 W

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O P 251140Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9507

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3458

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 25, THE 56TH DAY OF THE DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3406

1. SUMMARY: THE FORMER ROYAL CAPITAL AT OUDONG FELL AGAIN; FANK GOT ITS FOUR 105MM HOWITZERS OUT TO NEARBY LOVEK. THE KC FOUGHT OFF A RESUPPLY CONVOY ALSO TRYING TO BRING RINFORCEMENTS TO THE PREK DACH GARRISON ON THE LOWER MEKONG. THAT GARRISON IS IN GRAVE DANGER. HEAVY WEAPONS BOMBARDMENTS CAUSED MANY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AT NEAK LUONG. ONE OF 21 ROCKETS AT POCHEN-TONG DESTROYED A COMMERCIAL DC-3 AND WOUNDED FOUR PEOPLE. THE CAPITAL PROPER TOOK SEVEN ROCKETS IN THE AREA OF THE ROYAL PALACE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE KC PUSHED FANK OUT OF THE FORMER ROYAL CAPITAL AT OUDONG ON ROUTE 5 NORTH OF PHNOM PENH FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A YEAR. (THE TOWN FELL MARCH 18 LAST YEAR; FANK REGAINED CONTROL IN JUNE.) NO REPORTS ON LOSSES ARE IN YET BUT FANK DID MANAGE TO GET ITS FOUR 105MM HOWITZERS OUT OF OUDONG TO NEARBY LOVEK. THE FANK BASE AT LOVEK HAS ALSO BEEN UNDER PRESSURE; IT IS UNDER A LACKLUSTRE COMMANDER
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WHICH DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR THE DEFENSE OF THAT KEY

BASE, THE SOLE REMAINING GKR INSTALLATION BETWEEN PHNOM PENH'S PERIMETER AND KOMPONG CHHNANG.

3. THE KC SHOT UP A RESUPPLY CONVOY ALSO TRYING TO BRING IN REINFORCEMENTS TO THE FANK BATTALION AT PREK DACH SOUTH OF NEAK LUONG ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG. THEY SUNK A PATROL BOAT AND BURNED AN ARMORED TROOP CARRIER FORCING THE NAVY TO HALT THE RESUPPLY ATTEMPT AND CONTINUE SOUTH WHERE THEY SUCCESSFULLY UNLOADED SUPPLIES AT THE FIVE-BATTALION POSITION NEAR PEAM REANG ISLAND. PREK DACH'S DEFENDERS ARE GATHERED IN A SINGLE POSITION, CANNOT BE RESUPPLIED BY AIR, ARE UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AND CONSEQUENTLY ARE IN GRAVE DANGER.

4. NEAK LUONG TOOK OVER 60 ROUNDS OF MIXED 105MM HOWITZER, 82MM AND 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE WHICH KILLED 14 PEOPLE AND WOUNDED OVER 30, MANY OF THEM CIVILIANS. THE BATTALION ISOLATED ON THE TOWN'S EASTERN PERIMETER REMAINS ENCIRCLED WITH NO PROGRESS IN RELIEF OPERATION REPORTED. A NAVAL CONVOY ARRIVED THE 2TH FROM PHNOM PENH WITH RICE AND AMMO HAVING SUFFERED LIGHT DAMAGE FROM ENEMY FIRE ON THE WAY.

5. KAMPOT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PROBES ALL AROUND ITS PERIMETER; ONE POSITION RETREATED INWARD 500 METERS. THE KC STEPPED UP ATTACKS AGAINST VILLAGES NORTHWEST OF BATTAMBANG AND WEST OF THE PLACE WHERE THEY MINED THE TRAIN LAST WEEK.

6. KOMPONG SPEU-BASED TROOPS SHARPLY REACTED TO A KC CUT ON ROUTE 4 EAST OF THAT TOWN, QUICKLY REOPENING THE ROAD AND KILLING 35 KC. TAKEO FORCES SLOWLY MOVING DOWN ROUTE 1 SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH KILLED 53 KC IN ACTIVITY FEBRUARY 24. SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, THE KC ARE STILL ENCIRCLING SEVERAL POSITIONS OF THE 3RD DIVISION, AND PRESSURE IS INCREASING.

7. TWENTY-ONE ROCKETS HIT AT POCHENTONG. ONE ROUND DESTROYED A CIVILIAN DC-3 ON THE APRON AND WOUNDED FOUR PEOPLE. SEVEN ROUNDS HAVE LANDED IN DOWNTOWN PHNOM
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PENH WITH NO CASUALTIES REPORTED.
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